

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1501

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001

CHINESE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAK

DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed concern over reports of China's continued military support to Pakistan and its technical assistance for Pakistan's ballistic missile programme as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 9, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether our Foreign Secretary held a meeting recently with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister; and

(d) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. During the Second Round of the India-China Security Dialogue held in New Delhi on 8th February 2001, India conveyed its concerns to China over the latter's assistance to Pakistan, including in its missile development programme. Chinese side reiterated that its military cooperation with Pakistan conformed to existing international regime on non-proliferation.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. During Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister, both sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the Security Dialogue. They agreed that the aim of the dialogue is to enhance mutual understanding, expand common ground in their approach to international and regional security affairs, and narrow down differences. Foreign Secretary conveyed India's concerns over China's continued military assistance to Pakistan. It was agreed that both sides had a mutuality of interest in carrying forward the dialogue as an important instrument for building trust and confidence.